

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner noted that claims 1-27 are pending in the application. The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 8, 10, 14-18, and 25, and objected to claims 6, 7, 9, 11-13, 19-24, 26, and 27. By this Amendment, claims 1, 17, and 25 have been amended, and new claims 28-39 have been added. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-39 are pending in the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below, and reconsideration of all rejected claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

In items 2-3 on page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1, 8, 10, 15, 17-18, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,724,292, issued to Ichikawa (hereinafter referred to as "Ichikawa").

Claim 1 of the present application, as amended, recites "a weight sensing unit provided at an external portion of the microwave oven, to sense a weight of food." A controller stores "the weight of the food measured through the weight sensing unit in the memory when the weight measurement and storage modes are set through the input unit," and calculates "a cooking time depending on the weight of the food stored in the memory when cooking is performed." This is in direct contrast to the disclosure of Ichikawa, in which a weight sensing unit is not provided at an external portion of the microwave oven.

Ichikawa discloses a microwave oven (1) with a weight sensing unit (5) connected to a memory (12) to store weight information of food weighed on the weight sensing unit (5), the weight sensing unit (5) being located under a turntable (4) inside the cooking chamber of the microwave oven. Therefore, the weight sensing unit is not "provided at an external portion of the microwave oven," as is recited in claim 1 of the present application. Similar to the conventional microwave oven discussed in the specification of the present application, a user using the microwave oven as disclosed in Ichikawa would have to open the door of the microwave oven and place the food inside in order to weigh the food, while in microwave oven as recited in claim 1 the food is placed on "a weight sensing unit provided at an external portion of the microwave oven." This allows the user a greater ease of use while measuring the food.

Therefore, Ichikawa does not disclose the feature of "a weight sensing unit provided at an external portion of the microwave oven, to sense a weight of food." Accordingly, Ichikawa does not disclose every element of the Applicant's claim 1. In order for a document to anticipate

a claim, the document must teach each and every element of the claim (MPEP §2131).

Therefore, since Ichikawa does not teach the features recited in independent claim 1, as stated above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Ichikawa, and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection is earnestly and respectfully solicited.

Claims 8, 10, and 15 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by Ichikawa. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 8, 10, and 15 also patentably distinguish over Ichikawa.

Claim 17 recites a method of controlling a microwave oven using a “weight sensing unit provided at the external portion of the microwave oven.” Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 also patentably distinguishes over Ichikawa.

Claim 18 depends from claim 17 and includes all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by Ichikawa. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 18 also patentably distinguishes over Ichikawa.

Claim 25 recites “a weight sensing unit provided at the external portion of the microwave oven.” Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 25 also patentably distinguishes over Ichikawa.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103

In item 5 on page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichikawa in view of Chung et al. (KR2001000431A).

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of that claim. As presented above, Ichikawa does not disclose the features recited in claim 1. As Chung discloses a display unit to display the weight and calorie content of food, and a cooking time and to set various conditions (abstract), Chung does not cure the deficiency of Ichikawa regarding claim 1. Therefore, as claim 2 includes all of the features of claim 1, plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited references, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 also patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

In item 6 on page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichikawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,021,736, issued to Ciaramita (hereinafter referred to as “Ciaramita”).

Claims 3-4 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of that claim. As

presented above, Ichikawa does not disclose the features recited in claim 1. As Ciaramita discloses an input unit setting a calibration point to zero for a sensing unit (col. 7, lines 3-18) and an internal memory to store the zero point calibrated weight information (col. 7, lines 19-55), Ciaramita does not cure the deficiency of Ichikawa regarding claim 1. Therefore, as claims 3-4 include all of the features of claim 1, plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited references, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3-4 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

In item 7 on page 4 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichikawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,914,277, issued to Guerin et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Guerin").

Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and include all of the features of that claim. As presented above, Ichikawa does not disclose the features recited in claim 1. As Guerin discloses an EEPROM as a memory (col. 7, lines 15-22), Guerin does not cure the deficiency of Ichikawa regarding claim 1. Therefore, as claim 5 includes all of the features of claim 1, plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited references, it is respectfully submitted that claim 5 also patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

In item 8 on page 4 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichikawa in view of Ciaramita and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,780,821, issued to Choi et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Choi").

Claims 14 and 16 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of that claim. As presented above, Ichikawa does not disclose the features recited in claim 1. As Choi discloses an input unit comprising a cooking start key to set cooking start and a thawing key to set a thawing mode (col. 5, lines 10-13), Choi does not cure the deficiency of Ichikawa and Ciaramita regarding claim 1. Therefore, as claims 14 and 16 include all of the features of claim 1, plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited references, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14 and 16 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Claim Objections By the Examiner

In item 9 on page 5 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to claims 6-7, 9, 11-13, 19-24, and 26-27 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 6-7, 9, and 11-13 depend from claim 1, and claims 19-24 depend from claim 17. As presented above, the cited references, either taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose the features of claims 1 and 17. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6-7, 9, 11-13, and 19-24 also patentably distinguish over the cited references, and it is therefore further respectfully requested that the objections to these claims be withdrawn.

Claim 26 is an independent claim, and claim 27 depends from claim 26. As the Examiner has improperly objected to claim 26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and further because the cited references fail to disclose the features of independent claim 26, it is respectfully requested that the improper objection to claims 26 and 27 be withdrawn.

New claims 28-39 have been added to the present application. Claim 28-39 recite the subject matter of claims 6-7, 9, 11-13, and 19-24, as well as the limitations of the originally presented respective base claims and intervening claims, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if presented in this form. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 28-39 patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Summary

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 17, and 25 have been amended, and new claims 28-39 have been added to the present application. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-39 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

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Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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